

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A slicer for slicing of foodstuffs comprising:

a rotatable disc having a radial slot therein and a knife blade projecting above a plane defined by said rotatable disc;

a chute for downwardly conveying foodstuffs to said rotatable disc, said chute being at an acute angle with respect to a direction of rotation of said rotatable disc; and an orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc;

said chute having an elongated region disposed in an end of said chute and forward in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc, and tapering and extending forwards in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc, said orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc being at said elongated region of said chute, said orifice having a shape that decreases in width in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

21. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said orifice is an ovate shape of decreasing width in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

22. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said chute has an elbow therein.

23. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 22, wherein said orifice is of a tear drop shape with a narrow end pointed in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

24. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said radial slot has an adjustable width.

25. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 21, wherein said chute terminates in a housing covering and conforming to said ovate shape.

26-30. (Cancelled)